



## Adams Update December 17, 2021

### Next Week: Wednesday, December 22 = ½ Day

Remember that next **Wednesday, December 22** is a half-day, with **11:51 a.m. dismissal**. That is the last day of school before Winter Break.

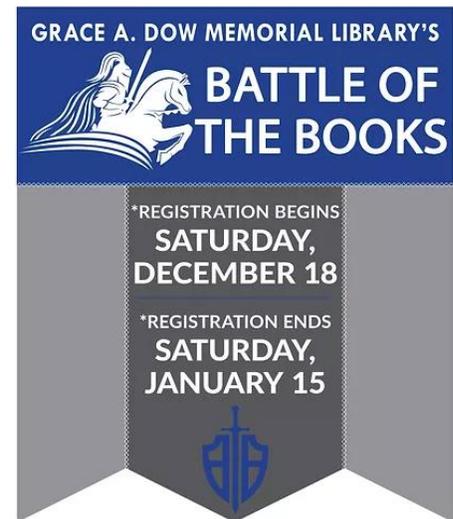
### Winter Break

Winter Break begins with the Wednesday, December 22 dismissal at 11:51 a.m. First day back after break is **Monday, January 3**. We hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful holiday season!

### Battle of the Books Overview

Battle of the Books is a program designed to encourage and reward our 4th & 5th grade readers. Grace A. Dow Librarians choose books which encompass a variety of interests and introduce students to a wide range of literature. During Battle season, students discuss the books with their teammates, team manager and other adults, so that reading becomes a shared activity. While reaping the rewards of reading and team building, the students also discover that they are having a lot of FUN!

The Battle season kicks off this **Saturday, December 18** with the release of the booklist and the beginning of online registration. This is the first day that Battle books will be available for check out. Please click on the Grace A. Dow website for more information about the Battle of the Books Schedule and tips for Team Managers: [www.gadml.org/battle](http://www.gadml.org/battle)



After the release, students interested in participating in Battle of the Books can form teams of four to six readers, have an adult team manager, and choose a name for their team. Register your team by **Saturday, January 15** to participate. The battles begin in early February and conclude with the championship battle in March.

### Exciting Results from New Writing Program

We are very excited to see the writing your young authors completed through the first semester of this school year. Our teachers and staff have worked very hard implementing the *Lucy Calkins Writing Units of Study* curriculum, and the results are noticeable. Ask your children to share their writing with you at home, and watch their faces light up with pride. Great job, Adams Atoms authors!

## Music Update

Mr. Webber here with an update about Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade music classes.

Kindergarten and 1st grade sang lots of review songs that we have enjoyed throughout the year, including "North Winds Blow," "Wondering," and a few other favorites. They also learned more about resting tones and how to use them to support singing a song. All of the classes played resting tones while using Boomwhackers in class and did an excellent job. Be sure to check out their performances on Canvas.



3rd grade began reading actual music on the ukulele this week. In class, they read both a vocal part and a ukulele support on a familiar melody. They should be able to play three chords (C, F, G) on the ukulele and line them up with the voice part. We will continue to practice these skills into the new year, learning a few new chords and honing our chord switching skills. 3rd grade also wrapped up singing "For the Winter."

4th grade continued learning about notes on the staff using mallet instruments. They now know 8 notes total (C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C) and had the opportunity to practice their reading skills in class. We will continue to practice these skills in the new year. Everyone is doing a great job of taking their time and figuring out the notes. All classes also finished singing "Here Comes the Snow," which used split parts and harmony.

In the new year, all classes will learn lots of new music, all about band/orchestral instruments, the science of sound, and music from around the world.

## GYM SHORTS from Mr. Seebeck

We are having so much fun in gym class. Leading up to our Winter Break, we've been playing "Reindeer Games". They are games themed for this time of year. Some of the games were Home Alone, North Pole vs. South Pole, Candy Cane Rescue, Light the Menorah, Elf Training, Load the Sleigh and many more.



Please ask your children about the games we played, and which one was the best or the worst. Although our games have had a Holiday theme, they also have a Physical Education objective to them. It might be fun for your son/daughter to describe the game and try to figure out what skill we practice during a particular game.

Everyone should know that two of our objectives are always to have fun and exercise or improve fitness.

As always, try to keep your child active and look for out of school activities for them to enjoy and stay active. Have a safe and fun filled Winter Break.



### **Repeat—Lunch in the Cafeteria Starting Monday, January 3**

Starting Monday, January 3, all MPS elementary schools will be using Cafeterias for lunch. While in the Cafeteria, each class will sit together at their own assigned tables. Breakfast will continue to be in the classrooms. We will be working with our students to teach or remind them how eating in the Cafeteria works. This will take a little bit of time, as our Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students have never used the cafeteria before! Training will take place prior to January 3 for our youngest students, especially.

### **PTO Update**

Be sure to check out today's PTO Update. Spirit Wear orders placed in November are ready to be picked up. If you have not picked up your order in the front office corridor, please do before winter break.

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### **Upcoming Events**

|                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wed, Dec 22    | Half-day of school, 11:51am dismissal |
| Dec 23 – Jan 2 | No school: Winter Break               |
| Mon, Jan 3     | First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester |

It was a great week here at Adams. With the short week, next week, there will be no *Adams Update*. **From our family to yours, we wish you all the best this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.**

Educationally yours,

*Scott Cochran*

Principal